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A few

Lines from a School

Master to his Schollars

in Verse

writen in Cumberland

in the County of

Providence in the

Colony of Rhode Island

by Joseph Tollett

February y. 26th

1763

Verse first

as I some time have keept a school
to teach some Children young
and some that is of older age
to Read the English tongue

2

and I have Learned you to write
as well as I was able
and some to Cypher through the book
while I Set at my table

3

Now I have keept in Comberland
to teach you all this art
I hope that you will use it Right
I wish it from my heart

4

Now I am going far away
I shall Leave you all behind
I Leave you in the hands of god
who gracious is and kind

(5)

Remember now that Reading is
a Stricht Commandement
and if you Do abuse that art
your god will it Resent

(6)

for he who knew his masters will
and would not Do the Same
was beaten then with many Stripe
because he was to blame

(7)

~~and when you write nothing to~~

and when you write mind what youd
write nothing to Degrade (Write
your makers name or any thing
that he has Ever made

(8)

Now mind the Stricht Commandment of god
and then you may be sure
the ten Commandments he has Set
his Laws are Very Pure

(9)

and when you Practice Cyphering
Remember how it Came
it is the blessing of the Lord
and therefore bless his name

(9)

Now mind the Strict Commands of god
and then you may be Sure
the ten Commandments he has Set
his Laws are Very Pure

(10)

you shalt not worship any thing
but only him alone
who hath the Earth Created and
who Setteth on the throne

(11)

thou shalt not make unto thy Self
to worship any thing
for he who hath framed the worlds
doth Set and Reign as King

(12)

the third Command you must obey
take not gods name in vain
for god hath said he will not hold
that man from guilt and shame

(13)

Now in Six Days your god Did (make)
the world you now Dwell in
the Seventh Day he Sanctify'd
a Day of Rest from Sin

(14)

give honour to thy Parents Dear
if you intend to Dwell
upon the Earth thy Length of Days
and free thy Soul from hell

(15)

the Six Commaed thou shalt not kill
nor with thy Brother get
into an angry wicked frame
Remember what is writ

(16)

the Sin of whoredom is so great
you must not meddle their
But bless your god when he Doth keep
you from that Wreched Snare

(17)

you must not Steel by any means
for So 'is gods Command
and you must Pray unto your god
from theft with hold your hand

(18)

you must not falsefy your oath
against gods holy Law
and Never make a fals Report

(19)

Thou Shalt not Covet any thing
which is your Neighbours Right
But for his plenty bless the Lord
Rejoycing at the Sight

and you must Love the Lord your god
with all your heart and Soul
and Love your Neighbour as yourself
and Never them Controll

of Seeking to god in youth

Now it is time to seek to god
with all your heart and mind
and give yourselves unto the Lord
who gracious is and kind

1

you must not Run in youthfull blood
in Heinous Sins which Cry
for Vengence for your Precious Souls
But from Such Sin must fly

2

Remember in the Days of youth
to Spend you time alway
in Serving of that holy god
who made the night and Day

(3)

then god who is a god of gods
will bless you with his grace
and when you Dye shall Dwell with him
and See him face to face

(4)

for in the blood of Jesus Christ
which on the Cross was Spilt
your Sins must all be wash'd away
or you must bear the guilt

(5)

Now Never keep your Sin till old
for fear that you should Dye
and then your Peace should not be made
with his great majesty

(6)

and then great horror you shall find
your portion is in hell
and their to be to Eternityze
with Devils for to Dwell

7

But may it be your happy Estate
to Live with Christ on high
and Sing forth Praises unto god
unto Eternity

Directions to Honesty

D. H.

my Schoollars all both great & Smal
be Honest in your Dealing
unto your Neighbour Such as Labour
give not your selves to Telling

(1)

and unto them that gather in
Some of their Honest Living
by traiding out all Round about
yet to the Poor are giving

(2)

and never Cheat though ere So neat
but always be a Striving
to be in favour with your Savour
you'l always be a thriving

(3)

for you may See all those that be
a Cheating out of measure
Do always fall both great and small
and Never get much treasure

(4)

Now I advise for to be wise
and bless the god above you
and gather more for to adore
the god that Ever Love you

(5)

the Conclusion

Now to ascribe our Praises all
to Jesus Christ our Lord
that he has on us Thus bestowed
an art to Read his word

(1)

and for an art to write so fair
may we the Lords name bless
and for the Rules of Cyphering
which we now Do Possess

D (2)

may we with Care and Prudence walk
in thankfulness for all
may I Example be in this
to Schoollars great and Small

(3)

I am a youth as well as you
may I seek to the Lord
while I am young Least I should Dye
and have a Sad Reward

(4)

my Schoollars Dear I Pray you here
for good Remember me
for I Did Strive to make you wise
by Learning Rules to thee

(5)

my Schoollars all both great & Small
Come Let us now begin
to bless the Lord for his Reward
for Christ the Lord King

finis

Dorcas Whipple
her Book
given to her by
Joseph Follett
School Master
at a School kept
at Peter Whipples
in Cumberland
February y. 26
A.D. 1763

Joseph Follett
School Master

Writer &c &c &c

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